

NEBRASKA STATE FIRE MARSHAL OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION



Interpretation Number: 02-01

Date: 31 October 2003

Pamphlet Number: NFPA 101
(2000), NFPA 13 (2002)

Section(s): 18.3.5.1; 8.1.1

Comments:

This interpretation applies to facilities where a NFPA 13 fire sprinkler system is provided.

Question: Are New Health Care and Assisted Living Facilities meeting the requirements of a Limited Care Facility required to provide fire sprinkler protection in closets and similar units?

Response: Yes, sprinklers are required in dwelling unit or sleeping room closets unless at least one of the following alternatives is met:

1. Free standing wardrobes are considered furniture and need not be sprinkled.
2. Top of wardrobe or closet is removed so the ceiling sprinkler system can provide sprinkler protection for it.
3. Doors are removed from wardrobe or closet.
4. Solid doors are replaced with louvered doors.
5. Water curtain coverage across the door opening is provided with heads outside of the closet.

The authority having jurisdiction may deem the closet so small in size and hazard as to not require any further protection than the system would otherwise provide in standard design.

Electrical and plumbing access enclosures containing no combustible storage and not exceeding 12 inches in depth do NOT require sprinkler protection.

As a reminder, no obstructions are permitted within 18 inches of the bottom of any sprinkler head.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Title: Dennis C. Hohbein, State of Nebraska Fire Marshal